



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

# Inside Wallops

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## NASA Turns 40

"An Act to provide for research into the problems of flight within and outside the Earth's atmosphere, and for other purposes" — with this simple preamble, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was created on Oct. 1, 1958.

On Thursday, Administrator Daniel Goldin kicked off NASA's celebration with an address to all employees from the NASA Headquarters auditorium. He was joined by Susan Eisenhower, President of Eisenhower, Inc. and a visiting fellow at Harvard University, who provided NASA employees with an historical context with which to consider their many accomplishments.

NASA will continue to celebrate its 40th anniversary throughout the year by looking toward the future with its various missions. On Oct. 25, the Deep Space 1 mission will be launched to demonstrate the first ion propulsion engine to operate in deep space.

On Oct. 29, NASA will nod to the past when Senator John Glenn joins the rest of the STS-95 crew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery. In November and December, the first components of the International Space Station will be launched from Baikonur, Kazakhstan and Kennedy Space Center, FL, beginning a new era in long-term human space exploration.

NASA will return to Mars with the launches of the Mars Climate Orbiter in December 1998 and the Mars Polar Lander in January 1999. Also, early in 1999, NASA will continue its commitment to cutting-edge astronomy by launching the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility.

Not content with looking only outward, NASA will turn its vision to our own planet with the launch of the QuikScat satellite on Nov. 24, a "faster, better, cheaper" mission that will study ocean winds and add to our knowledge of El Nino. The EOS-AM-1 satellite, scheduled for launch in the summer of 1999, will be the first of a new constellation of Earth Observing Satellites.

NASA will continue its groundbreaking aeronautics research by testing new propulsion technology with the Hyper-X program. Looking toward the next 40 years, the X-33 and X-34 programs will begin flight demonstration tests in mid-1999 that will lead to the next generation space launch vehicle.



At its 40th anniversary, NASA remains a leading force in scientific research and continues to stimulate public interest in aeronautics and aerospace exploration,

science and technology. Perhaps more importantly, NASA's exploration of space has taught humankind to view the Earth and the universe in a new way.

More information on NASA's future programs can be found on the NASA homepage: <http://www.nasa.gov/>

For information on NASA's origins and accomplishments, browse through the 40th Anniversary page: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/40thann/40home.htm>

### Earth Science Week

The first annual Earth Science Week is Oct. 11-17. This is an opportunity to bring attention to the important role the Earth Sciences play in our lives. More information, including suggestions on how to get involved, is available at the American Geological Institute's home page: <http://www.earthsciweek.org>

### Inside Wallops..... Balloon Launch

A 29.47 million cubic foot NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched Sept. 28 from Fort Sumner, NM. The experiment was to conduct functional testing of electronic and computer interfaces between the long duration balloon and science systems in the flight environment and refine flight-line procedures for large apex mounted payloads. Principal investigators were Erich Klein, National Scientific Balloon Facility and Dr. Robert Silverberg, Goddard Space Flight Center. Total flight time was 7 hours 57 minutes.

### Wallops Fire Department

On Sept. 30, emergency medical technicians responded to a mutual aid request from Accomack County 911 for a medical emergency in Wattsville.

## Time and Space

by Terese Ohnsorg

### Forty years ago in 1958 Origins of NASA Headquarters and the NASA Centers

**October 1** - NASA's first day of operations. From its predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), NASA inherited some 8,000 employees at NACA sites around the country. The employees included former NACA Director, Hugh Dryden, who became NASA's first deputy administrator.

**Headquarters** was located at the Dolley Madison House on Lafayette Square, Washington, DC, so named because Dolley Madison had lived there during the 1840s after her husband's presidency. On Oct. 1, 1958, NASA's new Administrator, Dr. T. Keith Glennan, convened his new employees in the Dolley Madison House courtyard to formally announce NASA's program for space exploration.

On its first day of operation, NASA inherited NACA's aeronautical research facilities at **Langley** Aeronautical Laboratory, **Ames** Aeronautical Laboratory, **Lewis** Flight Propulsion Laboratory and two small test facilities at Wallops Island, VA, (later **Wallops** Flight Facility) and Rogers Dry Lake, CA (later **Dryden** Flight Research Facility).

From the Department of Defense (DOD), NASA obtained the Vanguard satellite project and various DOD space research personnel including a small group at Cape Canaveral, FL. The Vanguard and Cape contingents were the beginnings of major NASA facilities. In 1960, the Vanguard group moved to Beltsville, MD, to staff what would become the **Goddard** Space Flight Center. Over the next few years, the Cape Canaveral group evolved into the **Kennedy** Space Center.

### Celebrate at NASA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

NASA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala will be held Friday, Oct. 16, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW. This event is sponsored by the AIAA/National Capital Section.

All NASA employees, retirees and alumni are invited to purchase tickets and attend this celebration. For details, see: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/hq/invite.htm>

**Fire Prevention Week**  
**Oct. 4 - 10**

Fire Prevention week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of Oct. 9, 1871, which claimed more than 250 lives and destroyed 17,430 structures.



Each year, fire prevention week marks the kickoff of a new NFPA Fire Safety Campaign. The theme for 1998, "Fire Drills: The Great Escape," will focus on developing home escape plans and, most important, practicing them.

Eight out of 10 fatal fires happen at home, yet most households are unprepared for a fire emergency. While more than half of the respondents to NFPA's 1997 home escape survey said they had developed a home escape plan, only 16% had actually practiced it. Practice is essential. There's no time to waste in a real fire emergency.

**EVERYBODY OUT!!!** NFPA wants to put the fun back in fire safety while teaching the very serious lesson that everyone has a better chance of surviving a fire in the home if they've practiced an escape.

**FIRE FACTS:** The majority of fatal home fires happen at night when people are asleep. The number one cause of fatal fires is smoking, resulting in an average of 820 deaths per year.

The top five causes of home fires involving deaths (deaths annually in parenthesis) are:

- 1. Smoking (820)
- 2. Arson (610)
- 3. Heating equipment (480)
- 4. Children playing with fire (370)
- 5. Electrical systems (350)

For further information contact the Wallops Fire Department, x1300.

**For Sale**

Baldwin Piano. Excellent condition. \$1,000. Call (757) 336-5610.

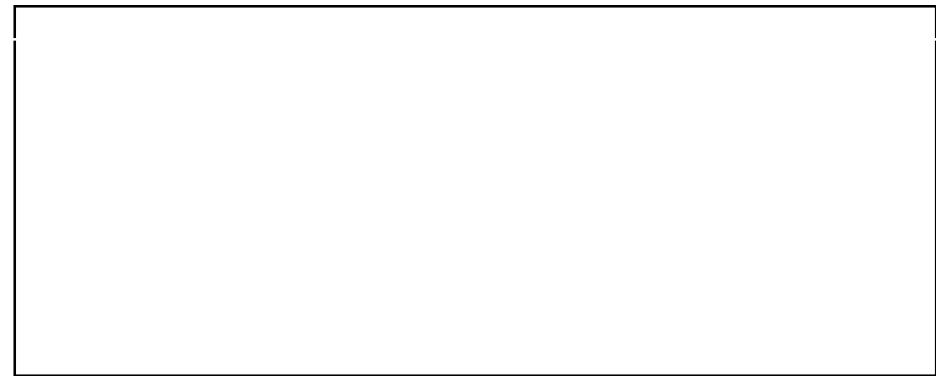
**Octoberfest**

**October 17**  
**Noon to 4 p.m.**

German food and refreshments. There will be hay rides and a DJ.



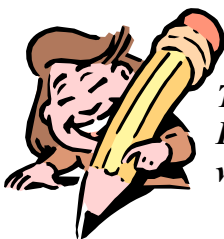
This event, sponsored by the Wallops Morale Activities Committee, will be catered. Call Gerry McIntire, x1889 or Bev Hall, x1714 if you plan to attend.



**A Journey Into  
The Millennium  
Beyond 2000**

*Dan Goldin, NASA Administrator discusses "Exploration" "How pioneers will continue to challenge accepted truths, which will lead to discoveries we can't even imagine"*

**Wednesday, Oct. 7**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Holloway Hall Auditorium**  
**Salisbury State University**



*The next issue of  
Inside Wallops  
will be Oct. 19.*

**NASA Contributes  
Technology to War Against  
Cancer**

In observance of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, NASA will release information on new ways aerospace research and technology is helping in the understanding, detection and treatment of all types of cancer.

A NASA fact sheet available on the Internet highlights diagnostic technology currently available and features NASA research and technology that may improve cancer diagnosis, surgical procedures and drug therapies in the future. The web site address is: <http://www.nasa.gov/women/welcome.html>

Five critical cancer experiments will be conducted on the upcoming Space Shuttle mission, STS-95, currently targeted for launch on Oct. 29. A fact sheet describing these experiments will be available closer to launch.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death for Americans. According to the national Cancer Society, 564,800 Americans are expected to die of the disease this year, more than 1,500 people a day. Men have a one in two lifetime risk of developing cancer and for women the risk is one in three. The National Cancer Institute estimates overall annual costs for cancer at \$107 billion.

**Flu Season is Approaching**  
*by Betty Jackson, R.N.*

Everyone seems to be concerned about getting the flu from the flu vaccine. You might get a sore arm or have a mild reaction, but you cannot get the flu from having the flu shot.

A serious viral infection, influenza, can put you to bed for a week and sometimes longer. Once you contact the flu, you feel miserable. The flu often causes a fever, chills, headaches, coughs and body aches.

A recent study found that people 18 to 64 years of age who received the flu shot had 25% fewer episodes of upper respiratory illness and also had fewer sick days.



The Health Unit will begin giving flu shots on Wednesday, Oct. 14 and will only take 30 minutes of your time.

Anyone with asthma or allergies needs a note from the family doctor giving permission to receive a flu shot. The shots are offered at no cost to civil service and contractor employees.

Call the Health Unit, x1766, to schedule an appointment.

**Mileage Allowance Increases**

The mileage allowance for advantageous use of a privately owned aircraft has increased from 85 to 88 cents per mile. The allowance for operating a privately owned automobile increased from 31 to 32.5 cents per mile. The allowance for operating a privately owned motorcycle increased from 25 to 26 cents per mile.

For other travel information, check the following address: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/hq/travel.html>

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